

# THE NEWPORT PLAIN TALK

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## SELLS DECLARES WAR ON ENEMIES

Will Have Them Removed From Office

## PATTERSONITES SCORED

Will Get Those of the Patterson Wing—Postmaster Alexander of Elizabethton is Removed From His Office by U. S. Inspectors.

Bristol, Tenn., March 22.—In a statement growing out of the controversy over the summary removal of Postmaster E. C. Alexander, at Elizabethton, Congressman Sam R. Sells, the new federal pie dispenser, Saturday threw down the gauntlet to his republican enemies and announced that he would have them all removed from office. Alexander, an old Brownlow man, refused to honor the commission which Sells got for E. E. Hathaway until he was forced out. It is only a \$1,700 office.

Sells scores the republicans who have been allied with the Patterson element and "liquor" democracy, and promises that their heads shall drop in the basket. He says they have fought him and he proposes to fight them, that he has nothing in common with them, and will show them no quarter. He says he will have every one of them put out of office if it beats him for re-election.

E. C. Alexander, the postmaster at Elizabethton, Tenn., who was relieved by the postoffice department last week and who refused to recognize the commission which President Taft issued to E. E. Hathaway, was put out of the office Saturday by inspectors from Washington and it was delivered to Hathaway.

Alexander defied the Washington authorities and had a good percentage of the people with him, but Postmaster-General Hitchcock instructed the inspectors to use force if necessary to oust him. Alexander's friends charge that Congressman Sells had him relieved for political purposes.

Congressman Sells statement is as follows:

"In view of the many misrepresentations that have been made incident to the change of postmasters at Elizabethton, Tennessee, I desire to give a true statement of the facts.

"E. C. Alexander, the disposed postmaster, and some of his friends, are attempting to make it appear to the people who do not understand this situation, that he has been a victim of political persecution upon my part. It is true that in a political way I am under no obligations whatever to Mr. Alexander or to his friends. I have never sympathized with Mr. Alexander's methods in conducting political campaigns in Carter county, and have repeatedly, both privately and publicly, criticized him in unsparing terms. I think I understand the political situation in Carter county thoroughly, and I know something of the temper of the people there with reference to Mr. Alexander's conduct in office. I have been aware ever since I entered politics four years ago, that Mr. Alexander was constantly violating the rules and regulations of the postoffice department in every campaign, and to make the issue plain, I stated in a speech in Elizabethton nearly a year ago, that if elected to congress, my first official act would be to have Mr. Alexander removed. I made this statement with confidence, knowing that Mr. Alexander's record in the office would justify his removal. His political organ, the "Comet" would make it appear to the people that he was removed without cause and without a fair and proper investigation.

"Charges were preferred against Mr. Alexander nearly two months ago by patrons of the Elizabethton postoffice.

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## JOHN HOUK OUT WITH WARNING

Says Taft is the Only Man Who Can Bring Harmony in Tennessee.

Washington, D. C., March 22.—The attitude of the administration toward the Republicans in Tennessee, which has been one of sympathy and interest in the Sanders-Hale faction, does not merit the admiration of John C. Houk, who represented the Knoxville district in the Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses. Speaking of the Republican party in Tennessee, the Senator from Knoxville said to-day:

"If this administration does not change its attitude in national politics so far as Tennessee is concerned, it will need another steam roller of much larger design and pattern than the one it employed at Chicago at the national convention that meets next year. There is just one man who can bring about harmony among Tennessee Republicans," continued Mr. Houk, "and that man is William Howard Taft. He can accomplish such a result only by giving all elements of the party in the state that much-talked-of square deal of which we have heard so much. Let him make the federal officeholders in the state attend to their official duties, and quit packing political conventions."

The ease and facility with which Congressman-elect Sells has railroaded appointees into office even before he has been sworn in as a Congressman has been much discussed by Tennesseans here. It is not only charged that Sells has made so much headway this early in the game as the result of the support of Postmaster-General Hitchcock, but it is even asserted that he has had a helping hand from Senator-elect Lea.

## BOOKER T. GETS HIS HEAD CLUBBED

Negro Educator is Sent to a Hospital in New York City.

New York, March 19.—Under the complaint of Booker T. Washington, Albert Ulrich, a German janitor, was arrested tonight charged with hitting the negro on the head with a club. Washington says he went to a house in Sixty-Third street to see a friend but his ring brought no response to the door. After ringing several times he walked up and down in front of the house. Soon the German appeared with a large club and began wielding it. Washington returned the blows with his fists and held his assailant until officers arrived. The negro spent an hour in the hospital as a result of his beating.

Ulrich told the police that his wife complained that a negro had been hanging around the hallway acting suspiciously. He walked up to the man and asked him what he wanted around there. No reason being given promptly he grabbed the negro. In the mix-up which followed Ulrich wielded his club and received the return blow which the negro admitted he struck.

At the police station it was not until Washington had proved his identity that he was allowed to go. Ulrich urged his arrest.

At the Flower hospital it was said Washington had suffered two lacerations of the scalp, each about four inches long; that his right ear was split and he received several body bruises.

Dr. Washington came to New York last Saturday to meet the auditor of Tuskegee institute, D. C. Smith, whom he was trying to locate in West Sixty-third street tonight when the attack occurred.

## PIKE WORK IS PROGRESSING

Seven Crews Are at Work on Grading Contracts

## FINISH GRADING JULY 1ST

Peters & Gibson, the Contractors, Have Taken Hold With a Vim and Give Assurance of Roads Completion by December 1st

Seven crews are at work grading the roads of Cocke county, the main contractor Peters & Gibsons having subletted the entire work of grading. There are crews at work on the Salem, Bybee, Bridgeport, Chestnut Hill, Jefferson county and Del Rio roads. The Bybee work consists of a two mile extension to the present road. In all eighteen miles of grade work is to be done and the contractors promise to have same finished by July 1.

G. W. Gorrell Secretary of the Pike Commission, stated that just as soon as the weather permits that five macadam outfits will be put to work on the roads and that by December 1, the 42 miles which have been specified will have been macadamized.

Peters & Gibson, apparently, have secured an energetic crowd of subcontractors and the farmers of the county are elated with the condition of the work.

The macadam contract for the Bybee road has been sublet and the outfit is already on the scene. Peters & Gibson will bring two outfits to Newport during the next few weeks, and Horace Mann, who has the contract for the macadam work on the South side of the Pigeon river, will also receive another macadam outfit in the next few days and, with the outfit already on hand, will be ready to cope with the work.

The Oldtown road will be redressed early in the summer, and the Winter's wear on it will make it a better road than had been hoped when the new dressing is placed on it.

## "GENTLEMAN" JOHN NEAS IS DEAD

One of County's Most Highly Respected Citizens Passed Away Tuesday Morning.

"Gentleman" John Neas, one of the most highly respected citizens of Cocke county, answered the call of the death angel Tuesday morning after fighting off death for several weeks. His death was due to paralysis and hundreds of friends gathered at the Salem church Wednesday morning to pay last respects to his memory. So many members of the family of Neas having the given name of John, it was necessary for his neighbors from boyhood to distinguish them, and the title of "Gentleman" was good evidence of the deceased's standing with his fellowman.

He was about 61 years of age and is survived by a wife and four children, Terry Neas, Mrs. Dave Hawk, Mrs. Frank Eisenhower and Mrs. Dunc. Neas. Riley Neas of Newport is a nephew. A number of people from Newport attended the funeral services.

## LET'S GRAND JURY QUIZ CAMPAIGN MANAGERS

Knoxville, Tenn., March 22.—Senator John P. Davis of Claiborne county is preparing a bill for the purity of elections. Senator Davis' bill will provide for a fine of \$1.00 for each man who sells his vote and disfranchisement for a term of years. His bill gives the Grand Jury inquisitorial powers to summons all candidates and campaign managers and make them, under oath, tell what they did with campaign funds.

## PRIZES OF GOLD TO BE AWARDED

Another Contest is Inaugurated by The Plain Talk

## \$50 WILL BE GIVEN AWAY

A Sum of \$5 Will be Paid to the Person Who Nominates the Winner of the First Prize—Two Special Prizes Offered.

Prizes to the value of \$50 will be given away by THE NEWPORT PLAIN TALK during the next three months. Last Fall a Gold contest was conducted by this paper and so successful was it, that the paper has decided to put on a similar contest, with some new features added.

The contest is to be inaugurated at once and the young people of the county will be able to earn a little vacation money without much work, for it does not take work to secure subscriptions to a paper like THE PLAIN TALK.

In every community there is a popular young lady, a young lady who can ask a half dozen friends to lend her a little assistance and these friends can make it an easy matter for the contestant to get a good start in the way of securing votes.

THE NEWPORT PLAIN TALK is offering a prize of \$5 to the person who first sends in the name of the contestant who finally proves the winner. This means that the nominations will have to be speedily made as some one else is liable to name the winner and the first one to submit a name is the only one to be considered.

A sum of \$5 will be awarded to the contestant having the highest standing, May 1, and another sum of \$5 will be awarded to the contestant standing highest on June 1. The contest will be brought to a close July 3, when the three prizes will be distributed as follows: \$20 to the contestant having the largest number of votes, \$10 to the contestant having the second highest number and \$5 to the contestant having the third highest number of votes.

See advertisement for manner of securing votes.

## STABBED DURING SUNDAY SCUFFLE

Willie Gregg Suffers Painful Wound From Hand of Clifford Burke—Both Arrested.

In the sequel of a rough and tumble scuffle held in the rear of Ray's Eastport livery stable Sunday morning, Willie Gregg, a white youth was severely cut in the back by Clifford Burke, another young man.

From what was reported to the officials, both Burke and Gregg had been drinking, and had started a friendly scuffle. During the struggle Gregg was put down several times by Burke, and finally it was stated that Gregg walked away and that he was approached by Burke, who stabbed him in the back. The stab wound was made to the left of the spinal column, below the shoulder blade. The cut was about 2 1/2 inches long, having gone to a rib when the thrust was first made, and made the gash when the knife was pulled from the wound.

Gregg was brought to town and Dr. Burnett rendered medical assistance. It was reported at first that the wound was of a very serious nature, but the developments showed that no vital spots had been touched.

Burke was afterwards arrested by the sheriff and several charges lodged against him. Sheriff Dawson also served a warrant on Gregg, charging him with public drunkenness.

## INDIGNITIES BY LOEB'S SLUETHS

Two Southern Women Subjected to Shameful Search on Return From Europe.

New York, March 22.—The wife and a daughter of Joseph Hull of Savannah, Ga., one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the South, were required to disrobe in their State-room aboard the steamship Lusitania Saturday while a custom inspectress, acting on a mysterious tip subsequently found to be false, made a vain search for a diamond necklace thought to have been purchased abroad. The search proving futile, Mrs. Hull and the daughter, Eliza Lamar Hull, were allowed to proceed to their hotel, where another daughter, Nina W., convalescing from an attack of typhoid fever, had preceded them without having been subjected to search.

The necklace rumor dismissed, customs inspectors scrutinized the family baggage, and charging undervaluations in the case of Mrs. Hull and the daughter, Eliza L., seized the articles in question. Mother and daughter maintained they had acted in good faith, but their explanations were not considered satisfactory to Collector Loeb, and the articles were seized. They consist entirely of wearing apparel, and will be held until "the home value," that is, the foreign cost plus duty, is said.

Joseph Hull, the husband and father, was on the pier to greet his wife and daughter, as was a son, Daniel, a cotton broker in this city. All were indignant at the proceedings, and threaten to carry the matter to the courts if necessary.

## JUSTLY INDIGNANT

"We were made to take off even our stockings," said Mrs. Hull. "Every stitch of our clothing was searched, and even our hair did not escape. I consider this treatment an outrage, and I had no idea such a thing could happen in America."

It was explained for the family that the report concerning the necklace probably had come from Savannah, where "there was jealousy" over the fact that the Hulls were fortunate enough to enjoy foreign luxuries and finery. As to the undervaluation charge, Daniel Hull said:

"My sister Eliza was the only one of the three who had previously been abroad, so yesterday my father sent a wireless, warning mother and the girls to be very cautious and particular in making their declarations. As to the alleged undervaluation, the total can be no more than \$150, and that it was due to the ignorance of my mother and sisters and was done with no malicious intent."

Federal laws give the authorities power to search passengers suspected

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## WILL ASSIST IN THE CLEAN-UP WEEK

The Board of Aldermen Will Join in With the Woman's Improve Club in Work.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session last Friday night and discussed in a general way plans for the holding of the coming election. The request that the first week in April be considered a clean-up week was taken up, and the Board decided to co-operate with the Woman's Improvement Club and will make an effort to make the cleaning up a big success. The Board also decided to install garbage cans and the merchants and people of the town will be requested to make use of same for all waste paper, etc. The board discussed in a general way the question of publishing the ordinances of the town, and the payment for same.

## PRITCHETT IS ABLE TO SET UP

Young Man Wounded Here Will Recover

## HAS MADE A GAME FIGHT

Many Friends Call On Him At Knoxville Hospital—Expects to be Able to Leave For His Home in About 10 Days.

Knoxville, March 22.—John Pritchett, the young man who was seriously wounded in the pistol duel at Newport, Sunday morning, March 12, is on the road to recovery.

Although suffering from wounds which were considered fatal at the time the young man has made a game fight, and Monday was sitting up for the first time. The injuries consisted of two bullet wounds which extended through his body, one through the right and the other the left side of the stomach.

There has not been a day since he arrived at the general hospital but what the young man received visits from friends. Several have made the trip from Newport for the specific purpose of seeing him. On Monday Garfield Neas, a young barber of Newport and a bosom friend called at the hospital to shave Pritchett, in answer to a request.

The injured boy has been attended here by his father and brothers who have been in Knoxville since the day Pritchett was first brought here. Pritchett expects to leave the hospital in about ten days.

## WOMAN TRIES TO BURN BABY

Knoxville, Tenn., March 20.—Local police discovered that Mrs. Lizzie Needham, an indigent white woman residing in the river section of the city, had on Tuesday night attempted to burn an infant which was born to her on Tuesday. The woman confessed, claiming that she thought the child dead at birth, and that when she attempted to burn it she did not realize it was fully developed. She stated that after casting the body into the grate, as a blaze illuminated the features she quickly removed it from the flames.

## THREE HUNDRED CATTLE BURNED

Chicago, March 22.—One man was killed and 300 head of cattle were burned to death in a fire which destroyed a square block of the huge network of pens in the Union Stock Yards here.

The body of the man trapped by the flames was found in the wreckage of a viaduct that fell among the perishing beasts below. A number of firemen narrowly escaped injury when the structure fell. Various commission firms owned the cattle burned. Loss, \$25,000.

## GREENE COUNTY FRUIT KILLED

Greenville, Tenn., March 21.—This section has experienced the coldest snap ever known at this season of the year. One morning last week the mercury was reported as low as fourteen above. Most of the peach trees as well as plum, cherries and some pear trees were in full bloom. Of course there can be no expectation except that this fruit is killed. There may be a few peach trees that were not out in bloom and a few of them may not be killed. There can be no expectation that there will be a crop. The apple trees were not in bloom and it is not believed that they are greatly injured. As to other injuries in this section from the severe cold weather they were not great. Strawberries are not raised here except for the home market and although killed they will come out again though probably much later than usual.